

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 8, 11, 12, 14, 24, 26 and 28 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 15, 16, 23 and 29 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer and hedging to guarantee a future exchange of currency using said exchange rate, wherein said hedging is performed with at least one of an option or a forward contract;

converting the price of the product from the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a final price according to said exchange rate, such that the buyer receives information concerning said final price before a payment transaction is performed;

receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform said payment transaction;

converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment according to said exchange rate, wherein said exchange rate is guaranteed at a time of calculating said final price for the buyer, such that the price in the local currency of the vendor is guaranteed and such that the

price in the local currency of the buyer is guaranteed for

a predetermined period of time, and is hedged; and

paying the vendor with said converted payment;

wherein at least said receiving said payment from the buyer, said converting said payment and said paying the vendor are hedged ~~by a hedging enabler process~~, such that a risk of a change in said exchange rate is hedged.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving payment from the buyer includes receiving payment from an account of the buyer in a financial institution, such that said financial institution does not perform said converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the seller has a Web site and the buyer purchases the product through said Web site to form an e-commerce transaction.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said converting the price of the product further comprises:

receiving said exchange rate at said Web site;

converting the price according to said exchange rate to form

said final price;

constructing a Web page including said final price; and

displaying said Web page to the buyer.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment further comprises:

providing a plurality of currency accounts, each currency account having a different type of currency; and transferring an amount of said payment from a currency account containing the local currency of the buyer to a currency account containing the local currency of the vendor to form said converted payment.

7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said transferring an amount of said payment is performed for a plurality of payments from the buyer to the vendor, such that a plurality of converted payments are formed.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim [8] 1, wherein said determining an exchange rate includes determining a plurality of exchange rates, each of said plurality of exchange rates being guaranteed for a separate predetermined period of time, wherein said converting the price of the product further comprises converting the price of the product to a plurality of payments for being paid by the buyer at a plurality of separate points in time, each payment being converted

according to one of said plurality of exchange rates, such that said receiving payment from the buyer is performed repeatedly for each payment by the buyer.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim [8] 1 wherein the vendor purchases a plurality of products from a plurality of suppliers, each supplier being paid in a separate local currency of said supplier, and wherein the vendor sells said plurality of products to a plurality of buyers, each buyer paying in a separate local currency of said buyer, such that said determining an exchange rate includes determining a first exchange rate for paying said supplier by the vendor and determining a second exchange rate for paying the vendor by said buyer, each of said first and said second exchange rates being guaranteed for a separate predetermined period of time.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining an exchange rate further comprises:

receiving said exchange rate from a FOREX market rate; and
transmitting said exchange rate to the vendor.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~12~~, wherein said converting the price ~~transmitting said exchange rate to the seller~~ further comprises automatically detecting the preferred currency of the buyer.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said converting the price transmitting said exchange rate further comprises automatically detecting the local currency of the buyer.

17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving payment from the buyer and said paying the vendor with said converted payment are performed through a trustee, such that said trustee receives payment from the buyer and gives payment to the vendor.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said trustee receives payment for the vendor on a settlement date.

19. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment further comprises:

aggregating payments from a plurality of buyers;

exchanging said payments through a currency exchange market,

to provide funds in the local currency of the vendor; and

transferring said payment to the vendor from said funds in the

local currency of the vendor on said settlement date.

20. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said determining an exchange rate includes adjusting said exchange rate according to a transaction fee, for performing said exchanging said payments through a currency exchange market, to provide funds in the local currency of the vendor.

21. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving payment from the buyer is performed by a third party payment clearance mechanism to receive payment from the buyer.

22. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a plurality of third party payment clearance mechanisms are available for receiving payment from the buyer, such that the vendor selects one of said plurality of third party payment clearance mechanisms for said receiving payment from the buyer.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for performing online hedging at a ~~point of sale~~ Web site for a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the

vendor to the local currency of the buyer;

converting the price of the product from the local currency of

the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a

final price according to said exchange rate, such that the

buyer receives information concerning said final price

before a payment transaction is performed;

hedging said payment transaction by a hedging enabler process,

said hedging enabler process communicating only with

~~the vendor, such that hedging is performed at the point~~
~~of sale;~~
receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform
said payment transaction;
converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to
the local currency of the vendor to form a converted
payment according to said exchange rate; and
paying the vendor with said converted payment.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein payment
from the buyer to the vendor is handled by a third party payment clearance service,
wherein a risk to said third party payment clearance service is also hedged by said
hedging enabler process.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein
payment from the buyer to the vendor is handled by a third party payment clearance
service, wherein a risk to said third party payment clearance service is also hedged by
said hedging enabler process.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

- determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer;
- converting the price of the product from the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a final price according to said exchange rate, such that the buyer receives information concerning said final price before a payment transaction is performed;
- receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform said payment transaction;
- converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment according to said exchange rate, wherein said exchange rate is guaranteed at a time of calculating said final price for the buyer, such that the price in the local currency of the vendor is guaranteed and such that the price in the local currency of the buyer is guaranteed;
- and
- paying the vendor with said converted payment;

wherein hedging is performed for the period from said determining said exchange rate to said paying the vendor such that a risk of a change in said exchange

rate is hedged and wherein said hedging is performed with at least one of an option or a forward contract.

Please add new claims 30-35 as follows:

30. (New) A method for supporting a transaction for purchasing a plurality of products by a plurality of buyers from a vendor, each product having a price, a local currency of at least a portion of the buyers being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyers communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

purchasing a plurality of products from a plurality of suppliers by the vendor,

each supplier being paid in a separate local currency of said supplier;

determining a supplier exchange rate for paying each supplier

by the vendor and determining a buyer exchange rate for

paying the vendor by each buyer, each of said exchange

rates being hedged and being guaranteed for a separate

predetermined period of time;

converting the price of the product from the local currency of

the vendor to the local currency of each buyer to form a

final price according to said exchange rate, such that

each buyer receives information concerning said final

price before a payment transaction is performed;

receiving payment from each buyer for said final price to

perform said payment transaction;

converting said payment from the local currency of each buyer
to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted
payment according to said exchange rate, wherein said
exchange rate is guaranteed at a time of calculating said
final price for each buyer, such that the price in the local
currency of the vendor is guaranteed and such that the
price in the local currency of each buyer is guaranteed,
and is hedged; and
paying the vendor with said converted payment.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising:
converting said payment from the local currency of the vendor to the local
currency of each supplier according to said supplier exchange rate; and
paying each supplier with said converted payment.

32. (New) A method for supporting a transaction for purchasing a product
by a buyer from a vendor with a plurality of payments, the product having a price, a
local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the
buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:
determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the
vendor to the local currency of the buyer;
converting the price of the product from the local currency of
the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a
final price according to said exchange rate, such that the

buyer receives information concerning said final price
before a payment transaction is performed;
receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform
said payment transaction;
converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local
currency of the vendor to form a converted payment according to said exchange rate,
wherein said converting the price of the product further comprises converting the
price of the product to a plurality of payments for being paid by the buyer at a plurality
of separate points in time, each payment being converted according to said exchange
rate and each payment being hedged separately, such that said receiving payment from
the buyer is performed repeatedly for each payment by the buyer; and
paying the vendor with each converted payment;
wherein hedging is performed for the period from said determining said
exchange rate to said paying the vendor for each converted payment such that a risk of
a change in said exchange rate is hedged.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said hedging is performed
with at least one of an option or a forward contract.

34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining said
exchange rate comprises automatically detecting the local currency of the buyer.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the buyer communicates with
the vendor through a Web page and a Web server, and said automatic detection is
performed through at least one of DNS lookup information or cookies.